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Rural dispensaries maintained by district boards.

* 34 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of rural dispensaries maintained by each of the district boards (separate figures to be furnished for different systems of medicine); and

(*b*) the details of the staff provided for each of the rural dispensaries ; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) whether the district boards have represented to the Government about the need for providing a compounder or nursing orderly for each of these dispensaries ;

(*b*) the subsidy or the scale of pay allowed to the Medical Officer and the staff of the rural dispensaries ;

(*c*) whether the Medical Officer and staff are treated as full-time servants ;

(*d*) whether they are granted dearness allowance according to the usual scales ; and

(*e*) whether they will be eligible for the free educational and other concessions allowed to Government and local board employees?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (i) (*a*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

(*b*) The minimum staff for a rural dispensary is a Medical Practitioner. In addition, a maternity assistant, a compounder and a dispensary servant are sanctioned for a rural dispensary according to the requirements of the dispensaries.

" (ii) (*a*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (i) (*b*) above.

(*b*) The medical practitioners and the maternity assistants are given subsidies as shown below :—

	Plains.		*Agency.*	
	RS.		RS.	
Graduates	900	per annum.	1,080	per annum.
Licentiates, Modern Medicine and Indigenous Medicine.	780	,,	900	,,
Maternity assistants, I Class ..	480	,,	600	,,
Maternity assistants, II Class ..	420	,,	..	

The compounders are paid Rs. 30 per mensem and the dispensary servants Rs. 10 per mensem.

(*c*) Only compounders and dispensary servants are treated as full-time servants of the district boards.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 361 infra.

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(*d*) The compounders and dispensary servants are paid dearness allowance from the funds of the district boards.

(*e*) Only compounders and dispensary servants will be eligible for the free educational and other concessions allowed to Government and local board employees."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government would agree to district boards employing nursing orderlies in rural dispensaries if they apply for the same?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, no necessity is felt for these nursing orderlies in the rural dispensaries."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" Sir, are figures for Rural Dispensaries of Indigenous Medicine given or are there no dispensaries at all?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the details are given in the statement."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government would consider the desirability of increasing the subsidy to the Rural Medical Practitioners for the reason that they are not now attracted to the villages and rural medical aid is inadequate? I would also like to know whether the Government will consider the desirability of increasing the subsidy from Rs. 900 per annum to something like the salary of the Civil Assistant Surgeons?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The subsidy was enhanced, Sir, only in 1949. There is no proposal to increase it further just now."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Will the Government consider, Sir, the suggestion made by me because rural medical aid is very inadequate and medical practitioners are not attracted to the rural areas for the reason that there are no amenities there for them or for the nurses?"

THE HON SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the problem of rural medical relief and how to attract medical practitioners to rural areas is under the consideration of Government and it is proposed shortly to call a conference of a few medical men belonging to Medical Associations to consult them about this matter."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Sir, will the Government invite medical women also to that conference of medical men because we do need a large number of women medical practitioners in rural areas?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, only men medical officers are employed at rural dispensaries."